

U.S. CUSTOMS SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHES VESSEL MODULE

Washington, DC—The U.S. Customs Service today announced the successful opening of the Automated Export System (AES) Vessel Transportation Module, which early this month began accepting booking and manifest information electronically from five AES certified vessel carriers.

AES is a joint program of the U.S. Customs Service and the Bureau of the Census. It is the only United States automated system for reporting export data, both commodity (Shipper's Export Declaration), and transportation (booking and manifest). This information is used by Customs to focus on high-risk export shipments and by Census to compile trade statistics.

Some of the advantages of the vessel transportation module to the AES carriers include:

- Reduced costs related to preparing, delivering, and storing of the paper manifests for Customs purposes
- A higher level of compliance with export law and regulations
- Extended the timeframe for submitting manifest information: from the present four days, to a maximum of ten calendar days after the departure of the vessel

The AES Vessel Transportation Module allows Customs to match commodity data with the booking and manifest data, enabling Customs to better focus on high-risk shipments. By receiving this information early in the export process, Customs can schedule and complete any verification examinations far enough in advance that most shipments will make their scheduled sailing. Up-front edits in AES help ensure the data meets export-reporting requirements, and reduce delays caused by inaccurate or incomplete information received.

Carriers interested in participating in the module should plan to attend the AES Vessel Transportation Module meeting in Newark, New Jersey, on July 25, 2001. Those interested in the electronic transmission of their transportation export data will have an opportunity to sign an AES Letter of Intent (LOI) to participate in the module. The meeting will include an overview of the Automated Export System, details on the vessel module (timing and data elements), and its benefits to carriers. For more information on the meeting and the AES Vessel Transportation Module, contact Customs Outbound Programs at 202-927-6060.